

Poudre Canyon Fire Protection District
Board of Directors Meeting
September 13, 2023 – Upper Poudre Canyon Community Center

Meeting was called to order by President Pat Conway at 7:01 pm. Present were Directors: Paul McGraw, David Bliss, Pat Conway, Bette Blinde, and Bryan Maddox. Approximately 20 visitors were also in attendance.

Minutes- Motion by Bette Blinde: *to approve the August 13, 2023 minutes as emailed to board members.* Second by Pat Conway. Passed 5-0

Treasurer 's Report- Motion by Bette Blinde: *to accept the August 2023 treasurer's report as emailed to board members.* Second by Pat Conway. Passed 5-0

Unfinished Business:

Insurance review report – No report by Director McGraw. Bette will invite our insurance agent come to an upcoming board meeting.

Accounts reconciliation— Director Conway is still working on the recent stack of receipts.

Streamline update: Director Maddox reported that Directors: Blinde, Maddox, Conway and Chief Collins have met several times online with Streamline Tech to learn how the site can be used and have been experimenting with the new website. They are pleased so far. User friendly. Bette reported there would be a workshop meeting for those who will be using it. Directors: McGraw and Bliss asked to be included at the next training opportunity. It is not a live website, yet.

Aerial ball placement: Andy Collins has identified and marked the powerlines needing aerial balls attached (for helicopter safety) and has given the recommendations to PVREA.

Community Wildfire Defense Grant Minutes summary: Poudre Canyon FPD, Crystal Lakes FD, Glacier View FD, and Larimer County Emergency Services representatives got together this week to discuss the Community Wildfire Defense Grant opportunity. The 4 groups will be identifying as the Red Feather Area is looking at applying in the next 90 days for a 6 million dollar grant for property mitigation money to benefit homeowners. There is a lady from the state that will help write the grant. If awarded the proceeds would be split with the four groups providing 100% funding for homeowner's mitigation efforts. A home assessment will be a requirement. Larimer County Emergency Services would have the fiscal responsibility for coordinating the program.

Application to summarize minutes: The transcribing app to summarize the minutes was not used on the August minutes.

Budget adjustments Chief Collins asked for authorization to spend money exceeding his operations budget for front tires for three department trucks: E621, E631 and E641 (~\$2400) and buy booster hose (~\$900) for E611 at Station 1. He still has vehicle maintenance and expenses of truck and ambulance inspections, training and will need to fill the fuel tank again. Discussion followed. Motion by Bliss and second by Maddox "to give Hugh the money he needs" (approving spending outside of the current operations budget.) Passes 5-0.

CLPEG I-Pad Funding: Funding was approved by CLPFEG for the three I-Pads discussed last month and these have been purchased with CLPFEG monies.

Secretary nomination- Tabled until next meeting.

Lower Canyon Lease? Lower Poudre Canyon representatives, Marci White and Sean Dougherty will be added to the next month's agenda to discuss monetary support for their association from PCFPD since the fire board and the department use their facility occasionally. They will put together a list of needs for consideration. LPCA is working on their budget.

New Business

Forest service Grant Letter: Chief Collins received a letter that he forwarded to Director Conway from the Forest Service asking if the PCFPD fire board would write a letter of support for the grant the Forest Service is applying for regarding a restoration project at Arrowhead Lodge. Director Conway asked Director McGraw to write this letter of support. He also asked

Director McGraw to write a couple of thank you letters to acknowledge donations that were received.

Disaster Mutual Aid Agreement: Chief Collins presented the Agreement for Disaster-Emergency Mutual Aid and Disaster-Emergency Funding Assistance with the Larimer County Office of Emergency Management (LCEOM) that needed a board signature and explained the benefits of and commitment of the department after a disaster has been declared, by signing the document. Motion by Blinde “to approve signing the Agreement for Disaster-Emergency Mutual Aid and Disaster-Emergency Funding Assistance with the county”. Second by Conway. Passed 5-0. (See attached.) Mutual aid agreements with rural departments are also being updated.

Executive Session: Director Conway made motion “to schedule an executive session under Colorado State Guidelines 24-6-402-4E Colorado Revised Statute determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations and instructing negotiators.” Second by McGraw. After this board meeting, a time and place will be determined by the board.

Reports were given before opening the floor for Community Comments.

Chief : Chief Collins reported 6 calls in August. He has moved the chipper and generator to Station 4 for the winter. He, Curtis Samples and Greg Venette have made new scene lighting for E621. He has applied to the state for 5 additional sets of bunker gear and 10 sets of wildland fire gear. He was contacted about a donation of emergency signaling devices and received 2700 devices. He is sharing them with neighboring fire departments, Emergency Services and the Forest Service. Chief Collins received “Sheltering in place” items for Stations 2 and 4 from LCOEM. Station 4 garage door opener has been repaired.

EMS – Director Maddox reported Amy Maddox is working on updating the medications on the ambulances for EMS.

Station 1- Chief Collins reported the bottom panel of a bay door that had been damaged.

Station 2 - Chief Collins reported the need to refill the diesel tank soon.

Station 3 - Andy Collins reported he is waiting for winter to work on his projects.

Station 4 – Sorting boxes of signaling devices.

CLPFEG – Director Blinde reported that the annual building lease payment from PCFPD was put into the CLPFEG account and paid to USDA.

Community Comments:

Building usage comments: Those speaking were Sandra Lundt (OPC and Chapel) Ron Lonneman-(Building Committee) Krissa Mayer (UPCA), Jan Simmons (Game Night) Karen Busch (Ladies tea), Curtis Samples (Men’s Coffee) All groups invited to speak were asked to provide a written copy of the information they were presenting to the board.

In summary, representatives for groups who use the community center reported how often they use the building and any concerns they had. Generally, everyone was pleased with the ease of access to the community center for community affairs. However, some related they had initially been unaware of the Building Committee’s reservation process. Concerns were mostly about rumors and the unsettled situation.

Additional comments were given by Becky McGraw, Sue Schneider, Sally Carney, Kathy Revis, Nan Stashak, Brenda Bliss, Chief Collins, Ron Lonneman (as CLPFEG) and Bette Blinde.

Control and communication seem to be the problem according to Brenda Bliss. Laura Stahl contributes problems to lack of respect.

Sue Schneider’s letter threatened future litigation/mediation if we continue to try to “take over management” of the building. See attached letter.

Meeting adjourned at 8:59pm.

Submitted by Paula Collins

When OPC agreed to a 99 year lease to build fire station #2 and the Community Building, we did so in good faith and for the benefit of the community. We would never have agreed to lease the land if there had not been a community building component included as part of the proposal. Things have run fairly smoothly since occupancy. Was everything perfect? No, but we were all able to be adults and work things out.

Your recent call for gathering community input regarding concerns and usage of "the community room at station 2" is the epitome of the problem. It is not a "community room at station 2", it is the Community Building portion of the shared facility. Moreover, since the facility was built, the Community Building has been managed by the Building Committee, a standing committee of OPC with representation from the Fire District. Therefore it is not the responsibility of the Fire District to ask for questions, comments, building concerns, accessibility or scheduling information for the Community Building-this is the responsibility of the Building Committee, which has been managing our Community Building even before this new facility was constructed. Should we all work together? Of course, and until recently, we have. And then Monday night, while looking for the agenda for this meeting I saw the "Room Use Request Form", where the Fire District, the chief and you PC, have suddenly taken it upon yourselves to be in charge of scheduling the Community Building! You have confused your mission and responsibilities with those of the Building Committee. You have no right to do this and are totally out of line. The fact that you, the Fire District, suddenly think you are in charge of the Community Building is the crux of the present matter. You are not, and have no jurisdiction on this side of the building.

The DoLA grant application to help construct the Community Building/fire station referenced a shared Community Building/fire station, all documents filed with Larimer County reference a "fire house and community center" including the parking agreement, Wells Fargo sublease and the Ground Lease. Nowhere does it say only "Fire Station". Consider this building and the fire station two separate buildings, just as the Lower Poudre Community Building and Fire Station #1 are two separate buildings.

Since 2018 OPC has initiated meetings to discuss sharing of expenses for the building, but to date we have made a proposal but received nothing in writing from the Fire District in response. OPC and the Building Committee have bent over backward to fix things the Fire District has complained about. We gave you a list of who has the keys, new members were appointed to the Building Committee to improve communication. OPC amended our bylaws to include the Building Committee as a sub-committee of our organization to allow them to accept donations as a non-profit. In short, OPC has done everything it can to try and improve relations, but nothing has worked. At this point it seems obvious the Fire District wants to re-write history and exclude the community from management of the shared facility.

The Community Building was built by and for the people of the community. The Building Committee has run the Community Building since it was in the schoolhouse, and have done so to the best of their ability. This conflict has taken up way too much time, energy, and emotion and it's time for it to stop. The Fire District needs to recognize that the Community Building is just that, not a community room in the fire station. The Community Building is managed by the Building Committee and any concerns about the management of the building should be addressed to them. You need to take the "Room Use Request Form" off of your website immediately. The OPC Board, Building Committee, UPCA and the PCFPD Board need to sit down and figure out how to share expenses. This is not what my family envisioned when they donated the land for the community. They envisioned as a part of this facility built on donated land community management of the community space in a spirit of cooperation and goodwill. It is time to respect the gift and intent of the donor. So let that be how we move forward. If you insist on proceeding to take over the Community Building we will be headed for litigation/mediation. This will cost all of us money and time.

Sue Schneider

SIGNATURE PAGE

As outlined in the foregoing Intergovernmental Agreement, the below designated jurisdiction executes this Agreement on the most recent date indicated below.

PARTY:

Poudre Canyon Fire Protection District

By:

[Signature]

Title:

President Poudre Canyon Fire District

Date:

9-13-23

ATTEST AS TO SIGNATURES:

Title:

[Signature]

Date:

9-13-2023